

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Tuesday, January 19, 2021
NHSCA’s Zoom Meeting Space

Arts Councilors Present - Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, R.P. Hale, Margaret Jacobs, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Catherine Sununu, Jason Tors, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Peter Warburton

Arts Councilors Absent - Vivian Beer and Leah Woods

Staff Present - Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart; Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); Lisa Burk-McCoy, Creative Communities & Arts in Health Coordinator (CC/AH); Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

Guests Present – Tricia Soule, Executive Director, NH Business Committee for the Arts; Miriam Carter, Executive Director, League of NH Craftsmen; Deb Fairchild, Juried Member of the League of NH Craftsmen; Karina Mitchell, Vice President, Membit (parent company of Aery AR); and Jay Van Buren, CEO, Membit

Motions (Carried)

- Accept the minutes of the September 16, 2020 Council meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 10:01 a.m. on January 19, 2021.

II. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting. Councilor RP Hale moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Tim Sink. The minutes from September 16, 2020 were unanimously approved.

III. INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer led the Council in acknowledging the native territories and stewards of the lands we may be Zooming in from. All were encouraged to visit <https://native-land.ca/> for an interactive map and to learn more about the indigenous peoples that lived/live in New Hampshire.

IV. PRESENTATION

Guests from The League of NH Craftsmen, NH Business Committee for the Arts, and Aery AR presented a report of their recently debuted augmented reality project at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport (MHT).

V. COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

After taking a quick photo of the meeting DNCR Commissioner Sarah Stewart expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to experience the League/Business Committee for the Arts augmented reality project at the airport and that she looks forward to experimenting with the app in the State House when it opens again to the public. She shared the Governor's recent call for state agencies to assist with staffing the COVID-19 vaccine call centers. She and her staff have been working diligently on the budget for the next biennium. The budget process is currently with the Governor and his staff for final edits and due diligence. The Commissioner reported that the Department as a whole is chugging along; the Trails Bureau within Parks is seeking a new Director, and Cannon Mountain is open with excellent snow conditions.



Council meeting.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Director Lupi announced recently receiving authorization from Governor Sununu to release 60% of the Public Value Partnership (operating) grant funds (*since the meeting the Governor approved release of the grants at 100%*). She reported that staff workloads continue to be larger than normal due to the impact of the pandemic on grantees and constituents.

CC/AH Lisa Burk-McCoy reported that a number of FY20 project grants (including 25 FY20 GPG and AIH projects) are still underway or on hold due to facility closures. We continue to be supportive, flexible and available to assist grantees and approve project modifications. FY21 ACE, YAP and Traditional Arts project grants remain on hold until the state approves the release of grant funds. Grantees are communicating their increasing concern about the delay and its potential impact on their ability to plan and implement quality projects. FY21 AIH projects are underway; we are checking in with grantees regularly to provide support and approve project modifications.

HTA Kayla Schweitzer reported on some of the common themes heard throughout the listening sessions. First and foremost was that many organizations will continue to need support. A continued waiver of the matching funds expectation will be helpful to organizations. However, many groups are reaching larger audiences due to the use of online presentation methods.

CGO Cassandra Mason reported on some of the changes the team may implement in the upcoming FY22 grant cycle, including waiving the match across all grant categories, a modified or shortened application for PVP/operating grants, extending the timeframe for grant work completion, and shifting arts education funding toward Youth Arts Projects and away from in-school residencies, with credit to grant applications that make use of NHSCA roster artists for their proposed projects.

CGO Mason provided an update on the NH Poetry Out Loud program, which is currently reaching 28 NH schools, several of which are new to the program. School competitions are in progress with a deadline of February 12 to name school champions. This year we will be recording virtual recitations, holding the judges scoring online, and then will host a virtual event to broadcast recitations and name the state champion.

CGO Mason gave an update on a variety of Percent for Art (PFA) projects with visuals from VAA Emily Killinger, including Terrence Parker's "Kelp Wave," recently installed at Jenness Beach in Rye.

Director Lupi concluded the staff report with updates on the state's Reopening Task Force and its various sub-groups, ongoing conversations with Public Value Partnership grantees and Arts4NH's nomination of Governor Chris Sununu for an Americans for the Arts Public Leadership In the Arts Award. She said that NH performing arts venues are awaiting details regarding the federal Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO) grant program and that the Arts Council may co-sponsor a webinar with the Small Business Development Center when the program opens. NH Artist Laureate Amanda Whitworth will hold a second series of *Creative Campfires* starting in late February, focusing on individual artists' experiences during the pandemic.



Kelp Wave by Terrence Parker, recently completed and installed outside the Jenness State Beach bathhouse.

VII. 2021 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilors Roger Brooks, Bill Stelling, Cathy Sununu and Mary McLaughlin reported on the positive and productive meetings they have had with Studio Lab and Trigger(House to begin shaping the event. Chairman Brooks reminded the Council that this event is the Council's only fundraiser, that it is only every other year, and the aim is to always have 100% Councilor contribution/participation, at whatever level each is able. The event will be held in the fall of 2021, and to accommodate the production timeframe this year the call for nominations will be released shortly.

VIII. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN

Councilors reported on a wide variety of recent and upcoming arts activities.

IX. ADJOURN

- Motion to adjourn from the business meeting: Councilor Angela Brown
- Second: Councilor Mary McLaughlin
- Nays: None
- Recusals: None

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:07 PM

Future 2021 Council Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, March 17 – Zoom
- Wednesday, May 19 – Zoom
- Wednesday, July 21 – Location TBD
- Wednesday, September 15 – Location TBD
- Wednesday, November 17 – Location TBD